

Message Text

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64

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-02 H-02 SS-15 PM-03

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 EB-07 /051 W

----- 109575

R 210920Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9591

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI KS

SUBJECT: US CONTRACTOR BEATEN

1. USFK AND EMBASSY WERE NOTIFIED APRIL 19 BY MAXWELL GRIFFIN, US CONTRACTOR IN ROK, THAT HE WAS BEATEN UP APRIL 17 BY INDIVIDUALS HE BELIEVES CONNECTED WITH KOREANS MILITARY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION. GRIFFIN WAS HOSPITALIZED BRIEFLY AS RESULT OF BEATING AND NOW HAS TWENTY FOUR STITCHES IN HIS HEAD.

2. GRIFFIN IS RETIRED FROM US MILITARY AND MARRIED TO KOREAN NATIONAL WHO IS LEGAL OWNER OF FIRM, G&L WORLD TRADING CO. HE REPORTS THAT HIS EFFORTS TO BID FOR MILITARY CONTRACTS BROUGHT ABOUT PRESSURE TO JOIN CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION AND TO ENGAGE IN BID-FIXING OF USFK CONTRACTS. HE STATES THAT HIS REFUSAL TO COOPERATE WITH CONTRACTORS RESULTED IN THREATS AGAINST HIS PERSON AND THREATS THAT HIS VISA STATUS MAY BE CHANGED. APRIL 17 BEATING WAS APPARENTLY EFFORT TO STOP GRIFFIN FROM SUBMITTING A BID TO USFK ON SOME STACKING CHARIS, BUT GRIFFIN NONETHELESS PUT BID IN APRIL 18. HE HAS SINCE RECEIVED FURTHER THREATENING PHONE CALL.

3. GRIFFIN HAS GIVEN SIGNED STATEMENT TO US MILITARY AUTHORITIES AND FORMALLY COMPLAINED TO SEOUL
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POLICE. HE EXPRESSED DETERMINATION TO PRESS ROKG TO

RESOLVE CASE AND IF NECESSARY TO SEEK US CONGRESSIONAL ASSISTANCE.

4. APRIL 19 CHUNGANG ILBO REPORTED BEATING AND WARNING VISIT SAME DAY BY INDIVIDUALS CLAIMING TO BE IN BUSINESS OF SUPPLYING 8TH ARMY. ARTICLE REPORTS THAT ANONYMOUS CALLER TOLD GRIFFIN APRIL 19, "IF YOU DON'T TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF MILITARY SUPPLYING BUSINESS IN FUTURE, I WILL SHAKE YOU DOWN AGAIN."

5. ON RECEIPT REPORT OF GRIFFIN'S DIFFICULTIES AMBASSADOR APRIL 19 RAISED MATTER WITH MINISTER COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY CHANG YE-CHUN. AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT POTENTIALLY HARMFUL POLITICAL REACTION IN US TO KOREAN ASSOCIATION MEMBERS BEATING UP AMERICAN FOR BIDDING ON USG CONTRACT AND URGED MINISTER TO LOOK INTO MATTER. MINISTER AGREED TO DO THIS BUT SUGGESTED EMBASSY ALSO RAISE ISSUE WITH MOFA. APRIL 21 EMBASSY POL/MIL OFFICER DESCRIBED CASE TO MOFA AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU DIRECTOR YI SANG-OK REITERATING POINT ABOUT POTENTIAL US REACTION. YI INDICATED FULL UNDERSTANDING, SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO PROBLEM, AND PROMISED TO BE BACK IN TOUCH.
SNEIDER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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